Franklin Institute.

(Proceedings of the stated meeting held Wednesday, February 21, 1900.)

HALL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE,
PHILADELPHIA, February 21, 1900.

President JOHN BIRKINBINE in the chair.

Present, 92 members and visitors.

Additions to membership since last report, 32.

Mr. Howard B. French was elected a member of the Board of Managers to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Herbert M. Howe.

The President announced the Standing Committees for the current year.

Mr. Frank Hart, of New York, presented a communication on "The Development of the Cotton Industry in the United States, with Especial Reference to the Influence of Machinery upon its Growth."

The special purpose of his address was to emphasize the great importance of modern methods of handling and baling cotton as compared with the old and wasteful methods which, until recently, were exclusively used. The round lap baling system, which is now rapidly coming into general use throughout the cotton-growing districts of the South, obviates practically all of the objections of foreign manufacturers, while, at the same time, it permits of enormous savings. Mr. Hart affirmed that, if universally used, it would result in a saving of \$45,000,000 on a 10,000,000 bale crop.

Mr. William C. Henderson, who has only recently returned from an extensive tour through this region, followed with an address on "The Cape Nome Gold District of Alaska." In his conclusions he strongly discouraged the idea that immense fortunes are to be made by pioneering this district, affirming that all the valuable gold-bearing territory in the region has been claimed and staked and even reclaimed and restaked again and again, so that the prospects confronting new-comers are most unfavorable.

Adjourned.

WM. H. WAHL, *Secretary*.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND THE ARTS.

[Abstract of proceedings of the stated meeting held Wednesday, February 7, 1900.]

PROF. EDGAR MARBURG in the chair.

The following reports were adopted :

Braiding Machine.—Andrew V. Groupe, Philadelphia.

ABSTRACT.—This invention is the subject of letters-patent of the United States, issued to applicant, numbered and dated, respectively, 588,421, August 17, 1897. It relates to that class of braiding machines wherein two sets of bobbins revolve around a common center, but in opposite directions, and, by the aid of complementary devices, cause the threads that pay out from each